

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, our colleagues on the Republican side are proposing to close the door to higher education for middle-income students in order to pay for a capital gains tax cut. Four major student aid programs—subsidized Stafford loans, work study programs, supplemental education opportunity grants and Perkins loans—are targeted for reduction or elimination.

Last weekend, I met with a group of college students in Maine. They were shocked and disappointed to learn of this proposal. In Maine, nearly 80 percent of all students attending the public university receive assistance from one or more of the targeted programs.

For the vast majority of these students, eliminating this aid will mean that attending college will become a dream turning bleak. Children of working families simply do not have the financial resources on their own to pay for higher education.

Who suffers as a result of this plan? Not just working-class families, but all Americans. Our country desperately needs an educated work force. Today's students are tomorrow's leaders. We cannot afford to deny access to education to all but the most privileged. We must defeat this ill-considered plan, and open education up to all.

AMERICA NEEDS TERM LIMITS

(Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, we need to adopt term limits. Eighty-five percent of the American people support limits on the time a Member may serve in Congress.

The current system of entrenched power and almost perpetual incumbency has produced a political climate of cynicism and distrust among the American people. Term limits, with their built-in mandate for accountability, can move us toward restoring faith of a wary public in their government in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a partisan issue. While Republicans just won control of both Houses for the first time in 40 years, we are reaching across the aisle and urging our Democrat colleagues to join us in fundamentally changing the way Washington works. It is my hope that the voters' demand for change will not become just another electoral echo but will remain vivid and distinct in our ears.

The American people deserve a Congress that is answerable directly to them. This is the meaning of the 1994 election. Mr. Speaker, we want a Congress that is truly a reformed Congress; that demands term limits now.

SSI AND TRAINING CUTS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with this body a story of individual courage and independence, the type of story that my colleagues from the other side of the aisle like to hold up as the American ideal.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of meeting a very special young woman from my home State of Texas by the name of Beth. Beth, by her own description, is retarded. Now, with a low-skills job, she pays taxes. She is determined to get a better job and soon get her own apartment.

But the Republicans' tax cut will not help Beth. While she was growing up in Texas, Beth's working-class family cared for her with the help of supplemental security income, the SSI Program. She has had access to various Federal youth job training programs that gave her help so that she could get into the public schools.

The Republicans' tax cut will not help Beth. Beth and others like her, true Americans asking only for a hand in overcoming adversity, may now be slapped down by the Contract on America, to pay for symbolic tax cuts, tax cuts that do not do any for us any good.

The other side is ready to cut SSI, job training, and student loans designed to give the disadvantaged an opportunity. Mr. Speaker, the only way that we can help Beth is to make sure that we enhance the opportunities. Mr. Speaker, the tax cuts that the Republicans offered are not the right thing to do.

TO THE DEMOCRATS: JOIN US

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, where are the Democrats? We need you. We need you today.

It takes 290 votes. Twenty-two States, many of the States that you all come from, have passed term limits. Why do you not get the message?

Many of these people are Democrats in these 22 States. They need for you to come to the floor today and support the vast majority of Republicans that will vote for term limits.

Do not snub your nose at your people. Come and join us. Help us put the 290 on the board and give the people of the country a chance, an opportunity to debate term limits so it will go out to every State legislature, so all the people will have a chance to debate it.

Do not snub your nose at the voters. Give them a chance to have a say in this. Come and join us. Put the 290 on the board today. Join us.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TORKILDSEN). The Chair will caution

all visitors, you are guests of the Chamber, and we do not allow demonstrations for or against any statement made on the floor.

CONGRESSIONAL TERM LIMITS

(Mr. ROEMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I have to respond to the previous speaker in saying that the Democrats must vote for term limits in order to pass it; I would just remind the gentleman from Illinois that he needs to get his leadership and his Republicans to vote for term limits, where the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DELAY] is not going to vote for term limits; the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE] is not going to vote for term limits, the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary; the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, is not going to vote for term limits.

It is not the Democrats that are refusing to vote for term limits. It is the Republicans as a body that are not totally endorsing term limits and will be responsible for this matter not going through the House of Representatives.

Now, term limits, they think, is the answer to everything. Mexico has very strict term limits for their President, their Senate, and their House of Representatives. It certainly has not solved all the problems in Mexico, and people like Mr. Madison and Mr. Jefferson served this country valiantly and with courage and responsibility for up to 43 years.

We should not remove that responsibility from people in this country.

URGING SUPPORT FOR TERM LIMITS

(Mr. WHITE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WHITE. Mr. Speaker, I have only been here for a short period of time, just 3 months, but in that short period of time I have learned something about term limits.

I have learned that there are lots of good people who have been in this House for a long period of time, people with experience who can add a lot to the debate, and if we pass term limits today, Mr. Speaker, some of those people will not be able to stay.

But, Mr. Speaker, for every single person we will lose because of term limits, there are thousands and thousands of other Americans who could serve equally well in this House, because no matter how much experience we have in the House, no matter how many Rhodes Scholars we have in the White House, the genius of our country resides in the people of this country, not in professional politicians.

That is why I have limited my own term. That is why I will vote for term limits.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to show some humility. We need the wisdom of the American people in this House, and term limits is how we are going to get it.

A HISTORIC DAY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(Mr. CLEMENT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, this is a historic day in the House. This will be the first vote in the House on term limits since the Framers of the Constitution rejected the idea over 200 years ago.

I believe term limits are not needed or necessary. Voters have the opportunity to limit our careers every 2 years. We have had a 52-percent turnover in the House of Representatives since 1990.

It is going to put much more power in the hands of the bureaucracy rather than the elected officials. And No. 5 is the large States really benefit at the expense of the smaller States such as Tennessee.

But with everything said and with my reservations about term limits, I will vote to let the people in Tennessee and the respective States decide whether term limits is in the best interests of the country. I will uphold the wishes of the people of my State and let them decide whether or not they wish to amend the Constitution even though I think it is a bad idea.

SUPPORT THE HILLEARY AMENDMENT

(Mrs. MYRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, in my home State of North Carolina, stock car racing is a huge event.

In stock car racing the car driver has a pit crew. These are the guys who work on the engine, fill it up with gas, and keep the car running.

When a driver pulls into the pits to have his crew work on the car, the crew only has a few seconds to do their job.

They change the tires, fill it up, clean the windshield, and then they get out.

Mr. Speaker, the American public elected us to be their pit crew.

The 1994 elections attempted to put America back on the right track. Hard working Americans are driving this country, but they have chosen us to come up here, do a job and get out.

I am a proud sponsor of House Joint Resolution 76, the Hilleary amendment which would impose a maximum 12-year limit on the terms of House and Senate Members.

However, this amendment would also respect term limits already established by 22 States nationwide, most of which are stricter.

Mr. Speaker, like many other freshman Republicans, I have also signed on to Mr. INGLIS' 6-year term limit amendment on House Members.

I have purposefully signed on to more than one amendment to help ensure that term limits pass this House.

Mr. Speaker, let us put America back on the right track and pass term limits.

FIGHTING TO PRESERVE STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, last night, Republicans refused to crack down on billionaire tax evaders who renounce their citizenship to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. But, preserving tax loopholes for billionaires is just the latest installment of the great tax giveaway of 1995. And, who is paying for this windfall to the wealthy? Middle class, working families.

Just look at what is next on the GOP agenda: Republicans want to cut student loan programs to help finance their tax cuts to the wealthy. Four crucial student aid programs are on the GOP chopping block. Together, these programs account for 75 percent of the financial aid currently awarded to college students.

In Connecticut, 39,176 students rely on Stafford loans. The average debt of these students is \$13,835. The Republican proposal would increase the average debt by \$4,547 per family. That means monthly payments will soar, from \$164 a month to \$202 a month. This may not sound like much to Speaker GINGRICH, but it is real money to a 24-year-old in his or her first job.

Many Members of this body took out student loans to pay for their education. It is wrong to deny that same opportunity to the students of today. Democrats will fight to preserve student loans programs, not tax loopholes for the wealthy.

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MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WANT TERM LIMITS

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, in his 1992 campaign for the White House, Mr. Clinton had this to say about term limits: "I am against term limits because I think it takes choices away from the voters." But the American people did choose. They chose by an overwhelming majority that they want term limits. It was their choice. Twenty-four and half million Americans have chosen term limits.

When you talk about choices for the voters, let us look at what happened in California. In California, the number of candidates running for office has increased by 40 percent since passage of term limits. That gives voters an awful lot more choices, does it not? Does it not increase the choices dramatically?

Mr. Speaker, the American people clearly want term limits. Republicans cannot do it alone. We need only half of the Democrats, we just need half of your caucus to vote for term limits. And the gentleman from Michigan's [Mr. DINGELL] own bill, we just need half of the Democrats to give the American people what they want, a more accountable citizen legislature and an end to legislative careerism.

STUDENT LOANS

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, as the Republicans continue their class war on behalf of the junk bond traders of this country, the poor and the middle class are once again going to face their social Darwinist guillotine.

Education is the single most important factor in determining whether or not a person will live in poverty. With this in mind, the GOP is now going to slash student loans which allow working families to send their children to school. Going to school is expensive enough as it is, yet now the Republicans want to make it almost impossible.

While NEWT GINGRICH plans a \$500 per child tax credit for people who can afford to send their kids to Yale, the working people in my district now will even have the money to watch his bogus college course on TV.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans not only want to deny a future for the poor of this country, they also want the middle class to keep them company.

OUR NATION IS BEST SERVED BY HAVING TERM LIMITS

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that I bow to the will of this body, my term-limits badge inside my coat, not on the outside.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to consider the words of George Mason, a man whose vision was critical to our Bill of Rights. Mason said;

In order to restrain public officials from oppression, they should at fixed periods, be reduced to a private station and return into the body from which they were originally taken * * * where they might feel and participate in the burdens of the people.

Mr. Speaker, that means people here should be responsible for the payroll, their production should warrant what their income is, and people who have lived under the oppressive rules and regulations of the Federal Government.